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WANT FREE LOCKS.

Figures that Mean Much to Valley Farmers—And Others.

There is probably no subject under discussion in the Willamette valley today that so vitally concerns every person of this section as does the one of free locks at Oregon City, which is attracting attention from all classes. That toll on freight passing up and down the Willamette should be removed, thus saving a vast sum of money yearly to Willamette valley farmers and business men, is asserted by everyone, and hoped and believed that the time is coming when the injustice will be ended.

An article on the subject of a free river appears in the Oregon Journal and is re-printed because of the information it contains on the subject. It says:

How it has happened that the people of the Willamette valley have so long tolerated this rank injustice to their interests without seeking relief is a mystery.

The lockage charge is in effect a toll of 50 cents per ton on every pound of freight that goes in or out of the valley through Portland. It means, as has been shown in these columns, the taking of one and one half cents from the sale price of every bushel of wheat grown in the region. It is a toll of 2 1/2 cents on every sack of potatoes, 2 1/2 cents on every sack of sugar, 2 1/2 cents on every sack of salt, 4 cents on every bale of hay, 5 cents on every barrel of flour, 5 cents on every bale of hops, with corresponding exactions on all other products or supplies, and so strongly is the toll taker entrenched that the toll has to be paid before the transaction is complete. If the 50 cents per ton lockage were removed, the steamboats would carry river freight for 50 cents per ton less, and that would force the railroads into a similar reduction.

The immense importance of the subject to the people of the Willamette valley and Portland is shown by the fact that during the past year the estimated receipts of the private corporation on freight passing through the locks, were \$25,000. It is conceded that fully three times as much freight is carried to affected points by rail, a fact that would place the excess freight rates the lockage fee turns over to the railroads at \$75,000 last year. The figures are believed to be extremely conservative, but thus estimated the total toll the lockage charge forced Willamette valley people to pay the past year, is \$100,000.

The sum is a very large one, under the circumstances. It is 5 per cent on \$2,000,000. The \$25,000 that the private corporation collected in tolls at Oregon City is 5 per cent interest on \$500,000, the sum that government engineers give as the estimated cost of the new locks on the opposite side of the river. For Willamette valley people to be required to pay \$100,000 each year simply because the lockage fee adds 50 cents per ton to river freight and thereby allows the railroads to charge an additional 50 cents per ton, is palpably and unquestionably unjust, and a situation for which relief ought to be afforded.

This is a subject upon which the people of Portland should become aroused, and in which the Oregon senators should interest themselves. Portland people are directly concerned, for, in the saving of this \$100,000 per year to Willamette valley residents, who will profit more in an indirect way than will Portland?

The way to help Portland is to make her easily accessible to the people of the Willamette region, to the people of the inland empire and all other sections. A present and pressing opportunity is for Portland, and all Oregon

to join the valley of the Willamette in a demand for the locks at Oregon City to become publically owned, and for the beautiful river to be made free and untrammelled.

DIVORCED BY DEATH.

Corvallis Man Suicides at Oregon City—The Story.

Raleigh, son of J. F. Benson, a former Benton county citizen now of Portland, attempted suicide in Oregon City, on Thursday. The story is given in the Journal as follows:

Leaving a note to his wife in which he said: "Here is your divorce," Raleigh E. Benson, who was sued for divorce by his wife, attempted suicide in the office of George C. Brownell in the presence of Mrs. Benson and Mr. Brownell, her attorney, Thursday afternoon at 2:15 o'clock. Benson shot himself without a word of warning with a .38 calibre revolver, the bullet taking effect in the left breast near the heart. He will probably die.

Benson was sued for divorce by his wife two months ago, she alleging that he had deserted her in September, 1905, and he had failed to support her since that time.

In the note which he left Benson gave his father's name as J. F. Benson, Portland, care of Mrs. Olive Pilger, 573 Tacoma avenue, Sellwood station.

Benson's recovery is regarded as improbable and he has been unconscious since he fired the shot. Dr. H. S. Mount was called to attend the man, but he expressed no opinion as to Benson's recovery, stating that he could not tell until he had made a thorough examination.

Nothing could be learned as to Benson's occupation. He gave the address of Mrs. Charles Read, living in the northern part of Oregon City, in his note and asked that she be notified in case anything happened to him. He was in conference with Mr. Brownell and Mrs. Benson concerning the divorce case which was to have been tried that afternoon when he shot himself.

WHAT HE THINKS.

Of American Women—M. C. Sinhi's Point of View.

At the last meeting of the Hindu-American Association held at OAC, of which society there are now 28 members, a paper written by M. C. Sinhi who left Corvallis a few months ago to become a teacher in his native land, was read. It gives the Hindu opinion of American women, and is very interesting. Mr. Sinhi says:

"The first thing which strikes me is the prominence which American woman has in public life. She is the most frequent visitor, and a welcome visitor, too, in the stores, in fancy shops, in the market house, and every play and show.

So greatly is she prominent in the minds of men that talk about the girls occupies most of the time whenever young men meet and converse—but paradoxical as it might appear, they quit talking before the girls themselves.

American woman offers quite a contrast when compared with the members of her sex in China, Japan, Persia and India. In Japan a woman looks like a doll; she is simple in manners; in India she is kind but so much afraid of the sun that her face is always covered with a hood; in Persia and Arabia she is tall and healthy but in public you cannot see anything except a moving figure wrapped in a white mantle; in China she is solemn like the blue she wears.

In America she has attained her highest development, and her capacity has found full play. If American woman be taken as a model we can by this time predict what woman can do, in general.

She leads in art, painting and music, and as time passes she is gradually going to lead in literature as well. If housekeeping be a fair index of her mental stamina, she is a great success.

A visit to any American house will show that woman is going to monopolize all aesthetic tastes, and she is going to control the future work of art and beauty to

a considerable degree. The ardor, precision, accuracy, and cleanliness which is displayed even in the houses of the poor, reflect a good deal of credit on American woman and fully justify—(Continued on Page Two.)

LULU TYLER GATES.

Artist to Appear in Corvallis—Something About Her.

Few readers have grown into great popularity as quickly as Lulu Tyler Gates. Few readers are so worthy of it, for after all it is the unusual talent that lives and grows in demand. Mrs. Gates is capable of giving an entire evening without a company, but for this season the Bureau has persuaded her to star as the head of a company of such artistic strength as to place them in advance of any popular concert company before the public. Of Mrs. Gates little need be said. The remarkable charm of her personality, the strength and richness of voice, her enthusiasm as an artist, and her high appreciation of the best things in literature, all contribute to insure her unbounded success as a public reader.

Miss Edith Adams, the violinist, needs but little introduction, her artistic work on this difficult and noble instrument having already won the friendship of both press and public in nearly every part of the country. While in Berlin, she was a pupil of Robert Hausmann of the Royal High School, and later was the protegee of the great virtuoso, Heinrich Kiefer of Munich. So interested was Mr. Kiefer in Miss Adams' talent that he invited her to make her home in his family, which made it possible for her to have almost daily coaching. During this time she won for herself the honor of being the best pupil of the greatest cellist of the day.

Graham Smith is a newcomer to the Lyceum stage. He is a basso cantante, possessing a particularly sweet and powerful voice, with a wide range, at all times under perfect control. He has been a hard student under the best instructors, and has been most successful the past two years in special recital work.

William Erhart Snyder is a pianist whose intrinsic worth to the profession he has chosen is of the highest order. Mr. Snyder has been for a number of years an earnest and painstaking student of the art of piano playing. He studied and taught four years with Hahn in the Detroit Conservatory of Music, four years with Sherwood in the Sherwood Music School, Chicago, and finished his studies with a course of two years under the tuition of the greatest instructor of the modern school of pianistic art, Theodore Leschetizky of Vienna, at the same time taking a course in musical theory under Professor Robert Fuchs in the Vienna Imperial Conservatory. 93

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For Sale—30,000 acres of land in Lane and Benton Counties, Oregon, lying along the C. & E. R. R. known as Road Lands, now owned by an Eastern Company. For prices and terms, call or address, L. H. Fish, Western Agent, Albany, Oregon. 78-11

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